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Indigo — CBSE Class 12 English Core Chapter Test

FREE CHAPTER TEST · CLASS XII · ENGLISH CORE (301) · PATTERN OF THE CBSE SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER 2026-27

TIME ALLOWED	MAXIMUM MARKS	QUESTIONS	NAME / ROLL NO.
45 minutes	21	13 (A 8 · B 4 · C 1)	

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper contains 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C.
3. Section A (Q1–8) contains objective questions of 1 mark each.
4. Section B (Q9–12) contains short answer questions of 2 marks each; answer in 40–50 words.
5. Section C (Q13) contains a long answer question of 5 marks with an internal choice; answer in 120–150 words and attempt only one of the alternatives.
6. Answer in your own words, within the word limits.
7. This chapter test follows the question types, marks and word limits of the Literature section (Section C) of the CBSE Class XII English Core (301) Sample Question Paper 2026-27, for one chapter: 21 marks in 45 minutes.
8. The answer key and the marking scheme are at the end of this booklet. Attempt the paper in 45 minutes before you look at them.

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Chapter: Indigo (Flamingo) · **Topics:** Rajkumar Shukla and Gandhi · The indigo sharecropping system · Civil disobedience at Motihari · Self-reliance and social work

SECTION A

This section comprises 8 objective questions of 1 mark each, testing comprehension, interpretation, inference and appreciation of the chapter.

1. Rajkumar Shukla met Gandhi and asked him to come to Champaran at 1

(A) the Lucknow session of the Indian National Congress in December 1916

(B) Sabarmati Ashram in 1915

(C) the Calcutta Congress in 1917

(D) a meeting in Patna

2. Under the old arrangement, the sharecroppers of Champaran had to 1

(A) pay their rent only in cash

(B) plant 15 per cent of their land with indigo and give the whole indigo harvest as rent

(C) sell all their rice to the landlords

(D) work in the landlords' factories

3. Why did the British landlords want the peasants to pay compensation for release from the indigo agreement? 1

(A) Indigo prices had doubled.

(B) The government ordered it.

(C) They had learnt that Germany had developed synthetic indigo, so indigo was no longer profitable.

(D) The peasants had damaged their factories.

4. At Rajendra Prasad's house in Patna, the servants 1

(A) welcomed Gandhi as a great leader

(B) invited him to dinner with the family

(C) sent him to Muzaffarpur

(D) took him for a poor peasant and did not let him draw water from the well

5. What did Gandhi do when he was served with an official order to leave Champaran at Motihari? 1

(A) He left at once.

(B) He signed a receipt and wrote that he would disobey the order.

(C) He went into hiding.

(D) He asked the Viceroy for permission to stay.

6. Why did Gandhi agree to a refund of only 25 per cent when he had asked for 50 per cent? 1

(A) The amount was less important than the fact that the landlords had to surrender part of their money and their prestige.

(B) He did not want to anger the Viceroy.

(C) The peasants told him to accept it.

(D) He was in a hurry to leave Champaran.

7. Why did Gandhi not allow Charles Freer Andrews to stay on in Champaran? 1

(A) Andrews was needed in Fiji.

(B) He wanted the peasants and his lawyer friends to rely on themselves, not on an Englishman.

(C) Andrews did not support the peasants.

(D) The government had objected to Andrews.

8. Which of the following was NOT part of Gandhi's social work in the Champaran villages? 1

(A) Opening primary schools in six villages

(B) Kasturbai teaching rules of hygiene and sanitation

(C) A doctor volunteering his services for six months

(D) Building a new indigo factory

SECTION B

This section comprises 4 short answer questions of 2 marks each. Answer each in 40–50 words.

9. Why did Gandhi go to Muzaffarpur before going to Champaran? (40–50 words) 2

10. How did the peasants of Motihari react when Gandhi was summoned to court? (40–50 words) 2

11. What made the lawyers agree to go to jail along with Gandhi? (40–50 words) 2

12. Why is the Champaran episode important in the history of India's freedom struggle? (40–50 words) 2

SECTION C

This section comprises 1 long answer question of 5 marks. Answer in 120–150 words.

13. (a) The Champaran episode was not just a fight for the sharecroppers' rights; it was a lesson in self-reliance and in freedom from fear. Discuss. (120–150 words) 5

OR

(b) How did Gandhi's approach in Champaran combine politics with the everyday problems of the poor? (120–150 words)

END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

ANSWER KEY — SECTION A

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(D)

MARKING SCHEME AND WORKED SOLUTIONS

Value points are shown with their marks in brackets. Credit any other relevant point made in the student's own words.

Q1. Answer (A). Shukla, a poor sharecropper, met Gandhi at the Lucknow Congress in December 1916 and followed him for months.

Q2. Answer (B). Most of the arable land was divided into estates owned by Englishmen; tenants had to grow indigo on 15 per cent of the land and surrender the harvest as rent.

Q3. Answer (C). With synthetic indigo coming from Germany, natural indigo lost its value; the landlords tricked the peasants into paying compensation.

Q4. Answer (D). Gandhi, with Shukla, looked like another peasant; the servants knew Shukla as a poor yeoman and kept Gandhi away from the well.

Q5. Answer (B). He chose to disobey and face the consequences; the case against him was later dropped.

Q6. Answer (A). The refund broke the deadlock; the landlords were obliged to give up money and, with it, part of their prestige.

Q7. Answer (B). Seeking an Englishman's support would show the weakness of their hearts: it was a lesson in self-reliance.

Q8. Answer (D). Gandhi worked on education, health and cleanliness; he did not build any factory.

Q9. (2 marks) Answer: to obtain more complete information.
He wanted to get fuller information about conditions in Champaran than Shukla could give; [1] at Muzaffarpur he met Professor J.B. Kripalani and lawyers who represented the peasants, and learnt how the peasants were being exploited. [1]

Q10. (2 marks) Answer: a spontaneous mass demonstration; loss of fear.
Thousands of peasants gathered spontaneously round the court in a huge demonstration; [1] the officials felt helpless without Gandhi's cooperation, and the event marked the beginning of the peasants' liberation from fear of the British. [1]

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: they were ashamed to desert Gandhi; moved by his courage.
They were moved by Gandhi's courage in defying the order to help peasants who were strangers to him; [1] they felt it would be shameful to desert him, and so agreed to follow him into jail — the battle of Champaran was won. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: first triumph of civil disobedience in modern India; freedom from fear.
At Champaran civil disobedience triumphed for the first time in modern India: Gandhi disobeyed the order to leave and the case against him was dropped; [1] the demonstration at Motihari began the peasants' liberation from fear of the British, and Gandhi taught them self-reliance. [1]

Q13. (5 marks) Answer: civil disobedience, self-reliance, social uplift.
Value points [5]: Gandhi came because a poor sharecropper, Rajkumar Shukla, would not give up; he studied the facts and defied the order to leave, and thousands of peasants gathered fearlessly at Motihari; the case was dropped — civil disobedience triumphed for the first time in modern India; the 25 per cent refund made the landlords give up money and prestige; he refused Andrews' help so that the people would rely on themselves; he started schools, health and hygiene work in six villages, with volunteers and Kasturbai; the episode taught the poor to stand up without fear and to depend on themselves , and civil disobedience triumphed for the first time in modern India.
OR Value points [5]: his politics grew out of the practical problems of millions — the unjust indigo agreement and the compensation trick; he gathered evidence from thousands of peasants, negotiated with the officials, and won a refund; he did not stop there: he opened schools, brought a doctor, taught cleanliness and hygiene with Kasturbai, and tried to remove the cultural and social backwardness of the villages; he trained the peasants to be self-reliant (refusing Andrews' help) and fearless; his loyalty was to living people, and politics for him meant their welfare.

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